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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re:		Chapter 11
BLOCKFI INC., et al.,		Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)
	Debtors. ¹	(Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF HEARING OF
DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING
THE DEBTORS TO FILE UNDER SEAL CERTAIN INFORMATION IN
CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER
(I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE
OF CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND
CERTAIN OF THE DEBTORS' INSIDERS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order

Authorizing the Debtors to File Under Seal Certain Information in Connection with the Debtors'

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The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing and Approving the Settlement and Release of Claims and Causes of Action By and Among the Debtors and Certain of the Debtors' Insiders and (II) Granting Related Relief (the "Motion") will be held on August 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard (the "Hearing") before the Honorable Chief Judge Michael B. Kaplan, Clarkson S. Fisher United States Courthouse, 402 East State Street, Second Floor, Courtroom 8, Trenton, NJ 08608.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Motion sets forth the relevant factual bases upon which the relief requested should be granted. A proposed Order granting the relief requested in the Motion is also submitted herewith.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Objections, if any, to the relief requested in the Motion shall: (a) be in writing; (b) state with particularity the basis of the objection; and (c) be filed with the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court electronically by attorneys who regularly practice before the Bankruptcy Court in accordance with the General Order Regarding Electronic Means for Filing, Signing, and Verification of Documents dated March 27, 2002 (the "General Order") and the Commentary Supplementing Administrative Procedures dated as of March 2004 (the "Supplemental Commentary") (the General Order, the Supplemental Commentary and the User's Manual for the Electronic Case Filing System can be found at www.njb.uscourts.gov, the official website for the Bankruptcy Court) and, by all other parties-in-interest, on CD-ROM in Portable Document Format (PDF), and shall be served in accordance with the General Order and the Supplemental Commentary, so as to be received on or before August 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that only those responses or objections that are timely filed, served, and received will be considered at the Hearing. Failure to file a timely objection may result in entry of a final order granting the Motion as requested by the Debtors.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that unless objections are timely filed and served, the Motion shall be decided on the papers in accordance with D.N.J. LBR 9013-3(d) and the relief requested may be granted without further notice or hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of all documents filed in these chapter 11 cases may be obtained free of charge by visiting the website of Kroll Restructuring Administration, LLC at https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/blockfi. You may also obtain copies of any pleadings by visiting the Court's website at https://www.njb.uscourts.gov in accordance with the procedures and fees set forth therein.

Dated: July 10, 2022

/s/ Michael D. Sirota

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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re:		Chapter 11
BLOCKFI INC., et al.,		Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)
	Debtors. ¹	(Jointly Administered)

DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING
THE DEBTORS TO FILE UNDER SEAL CERTAIN INFORMATION IN
CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER
(I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE
OF CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND
CERTAIN OF THE DEBTORS' INSIDERS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

TO: THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL B. KAPLAN UNITED STATES

BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY:

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

The above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") respectfully state the following in support of this motion (the "Motion"):

Relief Requested

1. The Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**: (the "Order"): (a) authorizing the Debtors to (i) redact and file under seal certain information in connection with the Investigation Report (as defined in the 9019 Motion), and (b) granting related relief.

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 2. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11*, entered July 23, 1984, and amended on September 18, 2012 (Simandle, C.J.). The Debtors confirm their consent to the Court entering a final order in connection with this Motion to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.
 - 3. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 4. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 107(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), rule 9018 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and rules 9013-1 and 9018-1 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Local Rules").

Background

5. On November 28, 2022 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), each Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. A detailed description of the Debtors, their

businesses, and the facts and circumstances supporting the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases are set forth in greater detail in the First Day Declaration and incorporated by reference herein.

- 6. The Debtors are operating their businesses and managing their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. On November 29, 2022, the Court entered an order [Docket No. 42] authorizing procedural consolidation and joint administration of these Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b). On December 21, 2022, the United States Trustee for the District of New Jersey (the "U.S. Trustee") appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Committee") [Docket No. 130]. On June 27, 2023, the Committee filed the Objection of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors to Debtors' Second Motion to Extend Exclusivity -And- Cross-Motion of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for an Order (A) Appointing a Chapter 11 Trustee, (B) Terminating the Debtors' Exclusivity Periods or, Alternatively, (C) Converting These Cases to Chapter 7 Proceedings, and (D) for Other Related Relief [Docket No. 1131-1], which, among other things, requested the appointment of a chapter 11 trustee. No request for the appointment of an examiner has been made in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 7. Contemporaneously herewith, the Debtors filed the *Debtors' Motion for Entry of* an Order (I) Authorizing and Approving the Settlement and Release of Claims and Causes of Action By and Among the Debtors and Certain of the Debtors' Insiders, and (II) Granting Related Relief (the "9019 Moton").²

² Capitalized used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning to the ascribed in the 9019 Motion.

Basis for Relief

- I. Redacting the Names of the Confidential Transaction Parties is Warranted Under Section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 8. Section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides bankruptcy courts with authority to issue orders that will protect entities from potential harm that may result from the disclosure of certain confidential information. This section provides, in relevant part:

On request of a party in interest, the bankruptcy court shall, and on the bankruptcy court's own motion, the bankruptcy court may:

- (1) protect an entity with respect to a trade secret or confidential research, development, or *commercial information*; or
- (2) protect a person with respect to scandalous or defamatory matter contained in a paper filed in a case under this title.³
- 9. Bankruptcy Rule 9018 defines the procedures by which a party may move for relief under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. Specifically, Bankruptcy Rule 9018 provides, in relevant part, that, upon motion, "the court may make any order which justice requires . . . to protect the estate or any entity in respect of a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9018.
- 10. If the material sought to be protected satisfies one of the categories identified in section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, "the court is *required* to protect a requesting party and has no discretion to deny the application." *Video Software Dealers Ass'n v. Orion Pictures Corp.* (*In re Orion Pictures Corp.*), 21 F.3d 24, 27 (2d Cir. 1994) (emphasis in original). Stated differently, section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code does not require a party seeking its protections to demonstrate "good cause." *Orion Pictures*, 21 F.3d at 28. "Courts have supervisory power over their records and files and may deny access to those records and files to prevent them from being

³ 11 U.S.C. § 107(b) (emphasis added).

used for an improper purpose." *In re Kaiser Aluminum Corp.*, 327 B.R. 554, 560 (D. Del. 2005). Courts are required to provide such protections "generally where open inspection may be used as a vehicle for improper purposes." *Orion Pictures*, 21 F.3d at 27. Indeed, the "authority goes not just to the protection of confidential documents, but to other confidentiality restrictions that are warranted in the interests of justice." *See In re Glob. Crossing Ltd.*, 295 B.R. 720, 724 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003). Confidential commercial information "has been defined as information which would cause 'an unfair advantage to competitors by providing them information as to the commercial operations of the debtor." *In re Faucett*, 438 B.R. 564, 567–68 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2010) (quoting *Orion Pictures Corp.*, 21 F.3d at 27). Commercial information need not rise to the level of a trade secret to be protected under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.⁴ Courts have also held that the resulting sealing order should be broad (*i.e.*, "any order which justice requires"). *See, e.g., In re Glob. Crossing, Ltd.*, 295 B.R. 720, 724 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003) (citing Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9018).

11. Here, the Debtors seek authority to redact certain confidential information in connection with the Investigation Report as such information constitutes confidential commercial information that may be protected under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9018. The information contained in the Investigation Report is the product of an extensive investigation conducted by the Special Committee and contains confidential information of the Debtors and third parties. This information is not public, and disclosure of this commercial information could cause significant injuries to the Debtors and all of their stakeholders.

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See In re Northstar Energy, Inc., 315 B.R. 425, 429 (Bankr. E.D. Tex. 2004) ("A bankruptcy court is required to seal 'documentary information filed in court that does not rise to the level of a trade secret but that is so critical to the operations of the entity seeking the protective order that its disclosure will unfairly benefit that entity's competitors."); see also Orion Pictures, 21 F.3d at 27–28 (holding that section 107(b)(1) creates an exception to the general rule that court records are open to examination by the public and, under this exception, an interested party must show only that the information it wishes to seal is "confidential" and "commercial" in nature).

12. Importantly, the Debtors do not request to redact everything within the Investigation Report, but rather only seek to redact information related to certain confidential counterparties with whom the Debtors had prepetition contractual relationships. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that, in addition to all that has been disclosed in the Investigation Report—the majority of which will be filed on an unredacted basis—authorizing certain information in the Investigation Report to be filed under seal is the best method to ensure transparency with respect to information disclosure while still preventing the negative implications of public disclosure.

No Prior Request

13. No prior request for the relief sought in this Motion has been made to this Court or any other court.

Waiver of Memorandum of Law

14. The Debtors respectfully request that the Court waive the requirement to file a separate memorandum of law pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(a)(3) because the legal basis upon which the Debtors rely is set forth herein and the Motion does not raise any novel issues of law.

Notice

15. The Debtors will provide notice of this Motion to the following parties and/or their respective counsel, as applicable: (a) the office of the U.S. Trustee for the District of New Jersey; (b) the Committee; (c) the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey; (d) the Internal Revenue Service; (e) the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; (f) the attorneys general in the states where the Debtors conduct their business operations; (g) the Released Parties; and (h) any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. The Debtors submit that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors request that the Court enter the order, in substantially the form submitted herewith, granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: July 10, 2022

/s/ Michael D. Sirota

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Caption in Compliance with D.N.J. LBR 9004-1(b)

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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

In re: Chapter 11

BLOCKFI INC., et al., Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

Debtors.¹ (Jointly Administered)

ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO FILE UNDER SEAL CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS

_

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

AND CERTAIN OF THE DEBTORS' INSIDERS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

The relief set forth on the following pages, numbered three (3) through five (5), is **ORDERED**.

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Debtors: BLOCKFI INC., et al. Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO FILE UNDER SEAL

CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND CERTAIN OF THE DEBTORS' INSIDERS AND (II) GRANTING

RELATED RELIEF

Upon the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Debtors to File Under Seal Certain Information in Connection with the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing and Approving the Settlement and Release of Claims and Causes of Action By and Among the Debtors and Certain of the Debtors' Insiders and (II) Granting Related Relief (the "Motion"),² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") for entry of an order (this "Order") (a) authorizing the Debtors to redact and file under seal certain portions of the Investigation Report, and (b) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration and the declaration submitted in support of the Motion; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11 of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, entered July 23, 1984, and amended on September 18, 2012 (Simandle, C.J.); and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion was appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing");

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

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(Page |4)

Debtors: BLOCKFI INC., et al. Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

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CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND CERTAIN OF THE DEBTORS' INSIDERS AND (II) GRANTING

RELATED RELIEF

and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before the Court and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is **GRANTED** on a basis as set forth herein.
- 2. The Debtors are authorized to redact certain portions of the Investigation Report pursuant to sections 105(a) and 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 9018, and Bankruptcy Local Rule 9018-1. Such portions of the Investigation Report shall remain strictly confidential and under seal, and shall not be made available to anyone without the prior written consent of the Debtors or further order of the Court.
- 3. The unredacted versions of the Investigation Report shall not be made available to any party (other than those specified in paragraph 4 of this Order) without the Debtors' written consent, may not be filed on the public docket, and shall remain under seal until further order of the Court.
- 4. The Debtors are authorized to cause the unredacted versions of the Investigation Report and any documents related thereto to be served on and made available, on a confidential basis, to: (a) the Court; (b) the U.S. Trustee; and (c) any other party as may be ordered by the Court or agreed to in writing by the Debtors and their advisors, in each case under appropriate confidentiality agreements reasonably satisfactory to the Debtors and their advisors, that preserve

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 1174 Filed 07/10/23 Entered 07/10/23 23:49:01 Desc Main Document Page 16 of 16

(Page |5)

Debtors: BLOCKFI INC., et al. Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

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RELATED RELIEF

the confidential nature of the redacted portions of the Investigation Report (and any information derived therefrom).

- 5. Any party who receives the sealed portion of the Investigation Report in accordance with this Order shall not disclose or otherwise disseminate this information to any other person or entity, including in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 6. The requirements of Local Rule 9018-1 is satisfied by the contents of the Motion or otherwise deemed waived.
- 7. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 8. The requirement set forth in Local Rule 9013-1(a)(3) that any motion be accompanied by a memorandum of law is hereby deemed satisfied by the contents of the Motion or otherwise waived.
- 9. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.